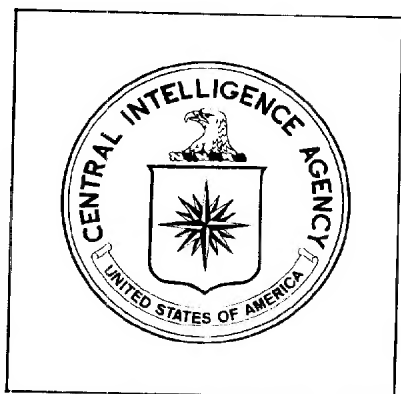


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STAFF NOTES:

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Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Demichev Tackles Corruption

Deeply entrenched corruption, cronyism, and self-serving intrigue on all levels within the Ministry of Culture are among the targets of the housecleaning initiated by the new minister and candidate Politburo member, Petr Demichev.

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The practice of soliciting and accepting bribes from prominent Soviet performers and artists on the international circuit is reportedly so common that it has achieved the acceptability of custom. Ministry officials, especially those of the state booking agency *Goskontsert*, make it clear to the artists that contracts involving foreign travel are contingent on appropriate recompense in the form of gifts brought back from abroad. [redacted] so many officials and artists have for so long engaged in this practice that it may be very difficult for Demichev to root out the problem; presumably there are many skeletons in the closet.

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In his attempts to streamline the bureaucracy and increase the efficiency of the ministry, Demichev is said to be relying mainly on the skills of his supporter and protege, Anatoly M. Dyuzhev, whom Demichev has put in charge of the ministry's personnel affairs. Dyuzhev returned to the ministry after having served nearly ten years in the diplomatic service, where he dealt largely with cultural matters. His last post was Washington. He has been described by some Western officials as smooth, Americanized, and confident.

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[REDACTED]

Demichev inherited the problem of corruption within the culture ministry from his erratic and sometimes emotional predecessor, Yekaterina Furtseva. Under Furtseva, the ministry had a reputation for Byzantine intrigue, protectionism, sycophancy and cabalism--all sustained by Furtseva's reported weakness for flattery and her predisposition to indecisiveness and self-doubt.

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When Demichev spoke with Ambassador Stoessel last December, he denied that his ministerial appointment signaled any change in the ministry's general approach to cultural policy. At the same time, he gave the impression of a forceful personality intent on applying policy in a more consistent, careful, and sophisticated manner. The rejuvenation of the ossified and claquish bureaucracy would seem to be a logical prerequisite for his goals.

[REDACTED]

February 25, 1975

Izvestia Commentator Answers
Soviet Critics of Detente

Izvestia political observer Aleksandr Bovin has written a vigorous defense of detente which may in fact be directed against critics within the USSR. The article, published in the February 6 edition of *Izvestia*, appeared at a time when Brezhnev's prolonged absence from public view was prompting speculation at home and abroad about his political future and the durability of his detente policy. Bovin has in the recent past written several articles pressing the case for arms control and has been criticized by one military writer for departing from orthodox doctrine on nuclear war and the need for armaments. The strong defensive tone of Bovin's latest article and its apparent domestic audience suggest concern that some aspects of Brezhnev's detente policy may be vulnerable to attack at home.

Bovin observes that "one may ask" whether the benefits of peaceful co-existence are "mere quixotry." "After all, insofar as imperialism is preserved, the underlying causes of aggressive policy are preserved." This is clearly an attack Bovin hears from orthodox Marxist-Leninists, not Western critics of detente. Bovin responds by suggesting that the shift in the correlation of forces may make it possible eventually to "liquidate imperialism's" harmful effects even while "imperialism" itself continues to exist.

Further progress in arms control is, in Bovin's view, the "political pivot" of detente. Noting that detente remains a "serious and difficult matter," he admits that "it is more customary to forge swords than to reforge them into plowshares." In the rhetoric of his earlier writings on strategic arms limitation, Bovin warns that the "threat of nuclear suicide" is too serious for the US or any other government to ignore.

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The article seeks to placate the concerns of orthodox ideologues in the Soviet elite and elsewhere by arguing that detente will not halt the struggles against capitalism; "it is naive to suppose that nuclear missile parity predetermines the preservation of the sociopolitical status quo. The world is changing and will change." Bovin asserts that only an end to the "debilitating arms race" can free the "necessary economic resources for fruitful international cooperation."

Bovin addresses some harsh words at the West. Further progress in detente, he notes, is dependent not only on logic, but also on the prevalent psychological atmosphere. "Certain circles" of congress who are guilty of "political extortion," as well as "the highest US officials" who talk about "using troops" to prevent the "strangulation" of the capitalist economy, undermine the trust necessary to improve US-Soviet relations. Armed intervention in the Middle East, according to Bovin, would lead to consequences that would make "the present economic chaos and political troubles look like the embodiment of order and stability."

Bovin, who has in the past been credited with ties to the Central Committee as an adviser to Brezhnev, is now a member of the editorial board of *SShA*, the monthly publication of the USA Institute.

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Balkan-Style Triangular Diplomacy

25X1 [redacted] Yugoslav Premier Bijedic--expected in Washington on March 19--may also travel to Peking and Moscow this spring. This array of visits reflects Belgrade's current stress on demonstrating balanced relations with the great powers.

Bijedic would be the highest Yugoslav official to visit China since the end of World War II. Yugoslav-Chinese relations, which stagnated after Peking's interest in Eastern Europe began to flag in 1972, gained new impetus last fall after Tito revealed a Soviet-aided subversive effort by a group of Cominformists. The preliminary arrangements for Bijedic's trip may well have been made during subsequent visits of a Yugoslav parliamentary delegation to Peking and of Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yu Chuan to Belgrade.

The Peking trip is a sensitive political issue, mainly because such ventures displease the Soviets. When Yugoslav Foreign Minister Tepavac went to China in 1971, the Kremlin was already highly incensed over Romanian President Ceausescu's earlier talks there. The upshot was a summer marked by an extensive Soviet propaganda campaign and, allegedly, by other Soviet pressures directed against the Balkan mavericks.

Ceausescu is planning another tour of the Far East in April, but there is as yet no word that he plans to stop in China. Should the two closely spaced trips to Peking occur, it would rekindle sensitivities in Moscow, even though the Soviets are now less nervous about China's role in Eastern Europe than they were in 1971. The Soviets might, as they did then, get their Eastern Europe surrogates to denounce a budding "anti-Soviet axis" in the Balkans.

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Given the close contacts between Belgrade and Bucharest on all issues of mutual importance, it is likely that the Tito-Ceausescu regimes have already begun to coordinate their moves. Ceausescu's talks with Tito's emissary Stane Dolanc two weeks ago provided a prime opportunity for such discussions.

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February 18 Yugoslavia announces new protocol procedures for VIP visits; key point is to rescind any obligation for participation by President Tito. [REDACTED] 25X1

 Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi publicly confirms that the USSR has resumed arms shipments to Egypt. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

 Portuguese government delegation is received in Moscow by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Manzhulo and D. M. Girshiani, deputy chairman of the state committee for science and technology. [REDACTED] 25X1

 Israeli Foreign Minister Allon announces that there have been Israeli contacts with Moscow and that the Soviets have kept Cairo informed of them. [REDACTED] 25X1

February 19 The 16-party working group for the proposed European communist party conference concludes a three-day meeting in East Berlin. [REDACTED] 25X1

 US textile delegation ends a four-day visit to Poland. [REDACTED] 25X1

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25X1

US embassy in Moscow is informed that Ambassador Dobrynin will not return to the US before mid-March. [REDACTED]

25X1

An approved exhibit of abstract art opens in Moscow for a one-week showing, but a private show by Leningrad artists in a Moscow apartment is cut short by police on charges of disturbing the peace. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 20

Izvestia and Tass carry a brief announcement that a V. G. Kalinin has been convicted of high treason by a Soviet military court and "punished according to the law." [REDACTED]

25X1

Romanian President Ceausescu reports to the party executive committee on his recent talks with Bulgarian party/state chief Zhivkov. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav President Tito appoints long-time proteges Kardelj and Bakaric to senior advisory posts. [REDACTED]

25X1

US and East Germany conclude joint review in Washington of prospects for a consular convention; four key issues remain unresolved. [REDACTED]

25X1

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alkhimov attends a two-day meeting in Washington of the US-Soviet Trade Council. [REDACTED]

25X1

USSR formally delivers a protest to the US over "slandorous attacks" on

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25X1

Soviet UN Ambassador Malik by columnist Jack Anderson. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav scholarly journal *Praxis* ceases publication as a result of pressures from the regime. [REDACTED]

25X1

Foreign Minister Gromyko is host at a luncheon for visiting Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minic begins a four-day visit to Mexico. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 21

[REDACTED]

25X1

Dutch official in Moscow informs the US that Jewish emigration so far this month remains about 40 percent below last year's figures. [REDACTED]

25X1

Lengthy *Pravda* editorial blasts Western social democrats for trying to drive a wedge between Portuguese socialists and communists. [REDACTED]

25X1

Brezhnev and Premier Kosygin lead attendees at a Moscow exhibit of battle paintings devoted to the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II. [REDACTED]

25X1

Deputy Premier Kirillin confers with visiting Portuguese Secretary of State for Industry and Energy Torres Campos. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Dissident Soviet writer Maramzin is given a five-year suspended sentence in Leningrad. [REDACTED]

25X1

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek concludes his visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 22

USSR and Egypt sign an industrial cooperation protocol. [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet-US negotiations in Washington on Alaskan and Pacific coast fisheries agreements are suspended at US initiative. [REDACTED]

25X1

Belgrade announces that President Tito will make a six-nation Latin American tour in late 1975 or early 1976. [REDACTED]

25X1

CPSU secretary Kapitonov is awarded the Order of Lenin on the occasion of his 60th birthday. [REDACTED]

25X1

East German Foreign Minister Fischer concludes a three-day visit to Poland. [REDACTED]

25X1

Romanian party secretary Andrei concludes a four-day visit to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet vessels leave Mauritius after providing disaster relief assistance. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 23

New Zealand Prime Minister Rowling begins a visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet army and navy mark the 57th anniversary of their founding; Defense Minister Grechko writes that Soviet

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combat power must be maintained "at the proper level of the defense capacity of our state." [REDACTED]

25X1

Hungarian party newspaper *Nepszabadsag* announces increased prices in Soviet-Hungarian trade for 1975, including a 130 percent rise in the price of Soviet oil.

President Tito returns to Belgrade after an extended stay along Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 24

French parliamentary delegation led by former foreign minister Couve de Murville begins a visit to the USSR.

25X1

[REDACTED]
Yugoslav Federal Assembly president Gligorov concludes a six-day visit to Egypt. [REDACTED]

25X1

Former Soviet Premier Bulganin dies at age 79 after a "protracted illness."

25X1

[REDACTED]
Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov makes a one-day visit to the USSR.

25X1

[REDACTED]
Yugoslav Central Committee convenes for a plenum session; President Tito attends. [REDACTED]

25X1

US and USSR resume in Washington their talks on an agreement to curb effort to modify the environment to gain military advantages. [REDACTED]

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Vatican "Foreign Minister" Casaroli begins a three-day visit to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Defense Minister Grechko begins a three-day visit to India and meets with Defense Minister Singh for 45 minutes. [REDACTED]

25X1

Austrian Foreign Minister Bielka begins a three-day visit to Hungary. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minic begins a four-day visit to Venezuela. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 25 USSR and Iran sign an economic cooperation agreement involving the construction of steel, paper and electrical complexes and said to be valued at \$3 billion. [REDACTED]

25X1

Vatican negotiator Archbishop Poggi arrives in Poland for talks on church-state relations. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav dissident writer Mihajlov goes on trial. [REDACTED]

25X1

FUTURE EVENTS

February 26 Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov to commence a three-day visit to Egypt. [REDACTED]

25X1

February 27 Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu to begin a five-day visit to Greece. [REDACTED]

25X1

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25X1

February 28 East-West trade union conference to
open in Geneva. [REDACTED]

25X1

Early March Romanian Central Committee will probably
convene for a plenum meeting. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

March 4 26-nation Geneva disarmament confer-
ence, co-chaired by the US and the
USSR, to convene for its first meeting
of 1975. [REDACTED]

25X1

March 9 Elections for Romania's Grand National
Assembly to be held. [REDACTED]

25X1

March 11 Romanian chief of staff Coman to
begin a ten-day visit to the US, the
first by such a high-ranking officer
of a Warsaw Pact member-state. [REDACTED]

25X1

March USSR to conduct a major military
exercise in the central part of its
European territory. [REDACTED]

25X1

March 16 Swedish Prime Minister Palme to begin
a three-day visit to Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

25X1

March 17 Hungarian party congress to open. [REDACTED]

March 18 GDR party boss Honecker to begin a
visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav Premier Bijedic to begin a
one-week visit to the US. [REDACTED]

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March 19 French Prime Minister Chirac to
commence a six-day visit to the USSR.

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March 21 Finnish President Kekkonen to begin
a five-day visit to Yugoslavia.

25X1

Early April Romanian President Ceausescu to visit
Japan, the Philippines, Kuwait,
Jordan, and Tunisia.

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